

Senuri Wijenayake

PhD Candidate | Human Computer Interaction Group, University of Melbourne

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PROFILE

I am a PhD Candidate in Human-Computer Interaction and Social Computing, primarily investigating how online group settings can be designed accounting for socio-psychological influences. I am passionate about transforming ideas into products and have prior experience leading cross-functional teams with 20+ members, implementing agile software development processes, and directly communicating with international clients in product pitches. I also enjoy teaching and mentoring graduate and undergraduate students and conducting seminars to raise awareness of higher education opportunities to students in rural Sri Lanka. I am currently seeking an internship that will provide an opportunity to fulfill my passion in product engineering, with new challenges and rewarding experiences.

EDUCATION

PhD in Computer Science (expected completion in December 2021)

Jul 2018 – Present

School of Computing and Information Systems, University of Melbourne, Australia.

Thesis: Understanding Dynamics of Online Social Conformity

Supervised By: Dr. Jorge Goncalves and Prof. Vassilis Kostakos

BSc. (Hons) Information Technology

May 2013 – Oct 2017

Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

Highlights:

- **Gold Medal for the Best Academic Performance** for the 2017 at the BSc. (Hons) IT Examinations.
- **Gold Medal for the Most Outstanding Student of University of Moratuwa** for 2017 for outstanding academic performance, research contribution, volunteer work and extra-curricular activities.

CIMA Passed Finalist

Nov 2015 – Present

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), UK.

EXPERIENCE

Academic Tutor

Jan 2019 – Present

School of Computing and Information Systems, University of Melbourne, Australia.

- Experience conducting both physical and online tutorials for graduate and undergraduate students.
- Received the **Excellence in Tutoring Award** in recognition of the excellent contribution to tutoring in School of Computing and Information Systems in 2019.
- Mentoring a postgraduate [HCI Project \(INFO90008\)](#) investigating social conformity in online group chatting environments.
- **Course Modules Tutored:**
 - [Evaluating User Experience \(INFO90004\)](#)
 - [Fundamentals of Interaction Design \(INFO10003\)](#)
 - [Social Computing \(INFO90007\)](#)
- **Certifications:**
 - [Melbourne Teaching Certificate for Graduate Researchers](#) awarded by University of Melbourne.
 - [Foundations of Teaching and Learning for Graduate Researchers](#) awarded by University of Melbourne.

Full Stack Developer, Team Lead

Aug 2017 – Jun 2018

Tracified, 99X Technology, Sri Lanka.

- Based on the concept “Trust Through Traceability”, [Tracified](#) can be used by vendors of premium products (e.g., organic food, gems) to provide transparency into their product’s journey from its origin to the marketplace ([demo](#)).
- **Winner of Gold Award** in Retail and Supply Chain Management at the **National Best Quality Software Awards** (NBQSA) Sri Lanka in 2017.
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Leading a 20+ team of Developers, UX Engineers and Quality Assurance Engineers and overseeing the scrum activities as the team's Scrum Master.
 - Guiding the product engineering process from product designing to deployment and on-site training of clients.
 - Communicating with current and potential clients for requirement gathering, customisations and troubleshooting.
 - Software development using TypeScript, NodeJs and AngularJs.

PicaSix, 99X Technology, Sri Lanka.

- Developed a web-based supply chain management system for PicaSix to combine and align process of complex supply chains between importers, suppliers, production, wholesalers and end-consumers.
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Software development using AngularJs, JavaScript, HTML, CSS and Ruby on Rails.
 - Implementing automated frontend testing using Protractor and compiled technical documentation for the setup.
 - Experience in Scrum activities and communicating with Product Owner and client for requirement gathering, customisations and technical walk-throughs.

Undergraduate Developer**Aug 2014 – May 2015**

E-kilder, Embla Software Innovations, Sri Lanka.

- Developed an interactive website to digitise handwritten information of Norwegian church books through crowdsourcing and use that information to enable users to discover and graphically illustrate their family trees.
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Full stack software development using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, C#, Entity Framework and SQL Server.
 - Communicating with the Product Owner and the Business Analyst for requirement gathering, customisations and technical walk-throughs.

PUBLICATIONS**Quantifying the Effect of Social Presence on Online Social Conformity****CSCW 2020**

S. Wijenayake, N. van Berkel, V. Kostakos, J. Goncalves

Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 4 (CSCW), 55:1 - 55:22. [pdf]

Bots for Research: Minimising the Experimenter Effect**CHI 2020**

S. Wijenayake, N. van Berkel, J. Goncalves

International Workshop on Detection and Design for Cognitive Biases in People and Computing Systems (CHI'20). [pdf]

Impact of Contextual and Personal Determinants on Online Social Conformity**CHB 2020**

S. Wijenayake, N. van Berkel, V. Kostakos, J. Goncalves

Computers in Human Behaviour, 108: 106302. [pdf]

Measuring the Effects of Gender on Online Social Conformity**CSCW 2019**

S. Wijenayake, N. van Berkel, V. Kostakos, J. Goncalves

Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 3 (CSCW), 145:1 - 145:24. [pdf]

Crowdsourcing Perceptions of Fair Predictors for Machine Learning: A Recidivism Case Study**CSCW 2019**

N. van Berkel, J. Goncalves, D. Hettiachchi, **S. Wijenayake**, R.M. Kelly, V. Kostakos

Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 3 (CSCW), 28:1 – 28:22. [pdf]

Improving Accuracy in Mobile Human Contributions: An Overview**UbiComp 2018**

N. van Berkel, M. Budde, **S. Wijenayake**, J. Goncalves

Adjunct Proceedings of the ACM International Joint Conference on Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing (UbiComp'18 Adj.), 594 – 599. [pdf]

Predicting Tie Strength between Facebook Friends to Improve Accuracy in Travel Recommendation Systems**PACIS 2018**

S. Wijenayake, S. Ganiachchi, J. Wijekoon, S. Ahangama

Proceedings of the Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems 2018 (PACIS'18), 246:1 - 246:24. [pdf]

A Decision Tree Approach to Predicting Recidivism in Domestic Violence**PAKDD 2018**

S. Wijenayake, T. Graham, P. Christen

Proceedings of the Pacific-Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (PAKDD'18), pp. 3 - 15. Springer, Cham. [pdf]

A Context Aware & Personalized Multiple Location Trip Planner Using Facebook Check-ins of a User**ICTER 2017**

S. Wijenayake, S. Ganiachchi, J. Wijekoon, S. Ahangama

Proceedings of the 17th International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer'17). [pdf]

Creation of Semantic Location Profiles using Bayes, Rule-Based, Trees and Meta Classification Approaches**ICNC-FSKD 2017**

S. Ganiachchi, **S. Wijenayake**, J. Wijekoon, S. Ahangama

Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Natural Computation, Fuzzy Systems and Knowledge Discovery (ICNC-FSKD 2017), 1604 – 1609. [pdf]

TEACHING

- **Academic Tutoring**
 - Evaluating the User Experience (INFO90004) in 2019 & 2020.
 - Fundamentals of Interaction Design (INFO10003) in 2019.
 - Social Computing (INFO90007) in 2020.
- **Mentoring**
 - Mentoring a postgraduate [HCI Research Project \(INFO90008\)](#), investigating social conformity in online group chatting environments in 2020.
- **Exam Supervision**
 - Supervising **online Zoom examinations** in Semester 1 in 2020, closely working with the Exams Office of University of Melbourne.
 - Invigilating examinations for [Knowledge Technologies \(COMP90049\)](#) and [Graphics and Interaction](#)

ACADEMIC SERVICES

- **Journal & Conference Reviewing**
 - CHI, CSCW, Computers in Human Behavior, INTERACT, ozCHI.
- **Conference Organisation**
 - **Student Volunteer** for ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing ([CSCW'20](#)).
 - **Social Media Co-chair** for Australian Conference on Human-Computer Interaction ([OzCHI 2020](#)).
 - **Student Volunteer** at CIS Doctoral Colloquium 2018 organised by the University of Melbourne.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Awards**
 - **Excellence in Tutoring Award** offered by the School of Computing and Information Systems, University of Melbourne in recognition for an excellent contribution to tutoring in 2019.
 - **Best Paper Award** at the Pacific-Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (PAKDD'18) for paper titled "*A Decision Tree Approach to Predicting Recidivism in Domestic Violence*" [[pdf](#)].
 - **Gold Award** in Retail and Supply Chain Management at the **National Best Quality Software Awards (NBQSA)** Sri Lanka in 2017, for software project "[Tracified](#)".
 - **Merit Award** in Culture and Tourism at the **e-Swabhimani'17** organised by ICTA Sri Lanka in 2017, for undergraduate research project "TravelSL".
- **Scholarships**
 - **Rowden White Scholarship** awarded based on academic merit by University of Melbourne for year 2018.
 - **Melbourne Research Scholarship** offered by University of Melbourne (2018 – present).
 - **Conference Travel Scholarship** offered by the Melbourne School of Engineering & School of Computing and Information Systems (2019, 2020).

VOLUNTARY WORK

Motivational Speaker & Mentor

May 2015 - Present

- Conducting online seminars to undergraduate students at University of Moratuwa on international opportunities for higher education (2018 - present).
- Conducting seminars to rural schools in Sri Lanka on higher education opportunities (2015 - 2017).
- Mentoring high school students at Visakha Vidyalaya, Sri Lanka on their GCE Advanced Level IT Projects in 2017.

Committee Member (Media & Communications)

May 2019 - Present

Sri Lankan Graduates' Society, University of Melbourne, Australia.

Editor in Chief – FIT Chronicle

Jan 2015 – Aug 2017

Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

- FIT Chronicle - the **academic magazine of the Faculty of IT**, University of Moratuwa - is the outcome of combined effort from the faculty and students, where I had the privilege of working together with an extremely committed editorial team, to revamp the magazine with a dash of life and pride.
- Under my leadership, the FIT Chronicle brought the spotlight onto **faculty events, academic programs, student achievements, student extracurricular activities** with a new addition of a "students' corner" to exhibit composing talents and artistic insight of FIT students.

See FIT Chronicle: [2015 Edition](#) [2016 Edition](#)